

Latham Building
221-223-225 J Street
Sacramento, Sacramento County
California

HABS No. CAL-1710

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
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LATHAM BUILDING

Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

ADDRESS: 221-223-225 J Street, between Second and Third Streets

OWNER: The Redevelopment Agency of the City of Sacramento

OCCUPANT: The Welcome Hotel and Laundry and Cleaner; building to be removed to permit construction of a Freeway

USE: Four-story portion used as a hotel. Other portion used by a laundry and cleaner.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Latham Building was built as a three-story office and residence by Milton Slocum Latham, lawyer, District Attorney, Congressional Representative, Governor of California and U. S. Senator. The lower floor was used as law offices by Latham and various other lawyers; the upper floors were the residence of the Latham family until 1864, when the Senator moved to San Francisco. The building was erected in October, 1855, at a cost of \$22,000. For at least a month beginning in January 1960 it was the "Governor's Mansion" of the State of California.

In the 1880's, the building was reconstructed with a rebuilt simplified street facade and reduced floor-to-floor heights, making a four-story building combined with the adjacent two-story building to the east.

DESCRIPTIVE ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

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EXTERIOR

Early views indicate that the facade of the original three-story portion was quite elaborate with an ornate bracketed classical cornice, and the arched windows of the two upper floors were enhanced with projecting decorative heads and ornamental balcony railings.

The existing rebuilt facade has a wide-projecting bracketed cornice, square-topped windows with hood moulds, and on the lower floor cast-iron pilasters of Corinthian order.

The original portion is 157'-0" long and 40'-2" wide; the two-story portion is an additional 20'-6" wide. The exterior walls are of brick with the street facade finished in plaster.

INTERIOR

The interior partitions and wall finish are not significant. The space under the sidewalk has brick walls and piers with cast-iron beams supporting brick vaulting. Upper floors and roof are wood joist construction.

TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL

Condition of Building: Sound structure, modified facade

Overall Plan Size:

Original - 40'-2" wide, 157'-0" long
Addition - 20'-6" wide, 81'-3" long

No. of Stories:

Original - 4 stories and basement
Addition - 2 stories

EXTERIOR

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Foundation: Brick footings

Wall Construction: Brick, load-bearing walls

Piers, Columns, etc.:

Exterior - cast-iron columns on 1st floor facade

Interior - 10x10 wood in basement; cast-iron columns, 2nd,
3rd & 4th floors.

Openings:

Doorways & Doors - wood, not original

Windows, etc. - wood, casement on upper floors

Roof:

Shape - ridge, low pitched

Covering - built-up composition

Framing - wood truss

Chimneys - chimneys for stoves along party-walls

Wall Finish: Front facade, plaster over brick; sides and rear,
exposed brick

Cornice: Present large top cornice of wood construction;
original cornice probably brick, plaster covered

INTERIOR

Floor Plans:

Basement - wood columns down center

First floor - cast-iron columns, wood partitions

Upper floors - cast-iron columns, wood partitions

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Stairways: Wood construction

Floor Construction and Flooring:

Basement - concrete, not original

First floor - wood flooring over 3x12 wood joists

Upper floors - wood flooring over wood joists

Wall & Ceiling Finish: Plastered

Doorways & Doors: Wood panelled, not significant

Trim: Not significant

SITE

The building is located on the north side of J Street and the old portion extends to the alley.

REFERENCES

Old Sacramento, by Carroll D. Hall and Hero E. Rensch, California Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, California, 1958.
Old Sacramento Inventory of Historical Buildings, Western Heritage, Inc., California Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, California, 1962.

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